

Council: Tuesday 20 April 2010

Opposition Policy Item in the name of Councillor Kath McGuirk – Potholes in Barnet

Amendment in the name of Councillor Claire Farrier

Delete all and replace with:

“Council notes the extraordinary number of potholes in Barnet – with over 3,000 reported by local residents since October last year, and 2,560 the council have identified as of 12th March that still need repairing.

Council notes that maintaining our roads and pavements was a key manifesto commitment for the Conservatives in the Local Elections in 2006, but despite spending tens of millions of pounds the state of Barnet’s roads has barely improved, and in some cases is worse than before.

Council believes this is a direct result of the policy of patching and of poor quality maintenance of our roads over the last eight years which has now been laid bare by the extreme winter weather. In addition, the Barnet Conservatives have cut the winter maintenance budget year on year, compounding the problem further.

Council welcomes the extra £176,000 that the government has given Barnet to help repair roads after the winter weather, but notes that the administration has allocated little new money in the budget for road and pavement repairs in future years.

Council believes that maintaining our roads and pavements is a basic and core service that the council provides, and that it should continue to be so.

Council asks Cabinet to consider reviewing the state of our roads and pavements, what resources and policies are needed to maintain them properly, as well as how road maintenance is procured and what contract specification is used.

Council also asks Cabinet to work with any Scrutiny task and finish group set up to look into or review this.”

Council asks that Cabinet closely monitor the progression of pothole repair work.”

Under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.